

REMARKS

Applicants have amended the abstract as required by the Examiner. The abstract now conforms to the guidelines set out in MPEP 608.01(b).

Claims 1-14 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) on Kanemitsu (U.S. Patent No. 4,511,000) in view of Ohara (JP 2000-341461). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection. Kanemitsu and Ohara, alone and in combination, fail to disclose or suggest all of the features recited in the claims.

The Examiner asserts that Kanemitsu discloses “a third detector for detecting an application of power and/or releasing of a power saving mode of the image forming apparatus” as recited in claim 1. Applicants respectfully submit that Kanemitsu makes no such disclosure: the electric power source 36 cited by the Examiner is not a detector; it is a battery (col. 6, line 61). Furthermore, Kanemitsu makes no disclosure that the battery is used to detect anything. Instead, the battery is used to maintain power to the counter circuit 35 such that the counter circuit can retain the correct count of the number of times that the photo drum 2 has been rotated, even after the process kit 28 has been disconnected from the printing apparatus. Kanemitsu does not disclose detecting of power and makes no disclosure whatsoever of a power saving mode as recited in the claims. Ohara does not disclose or suggest the above discussed features as recited in claim 1, nor does the Examiner cite Ohara as making such a disclosure.

Additionally, the Examiner asserts that Ohara discloses “a second controller for releasing the alarm display and enabling the use of the image forming apparatus when a specific input is operated during the displaying of the alarm on the display portion” as recited in claim 1. Again, applicants respectfully submit that Ohara makes no such disclosure. The cited portion of Ohara (page 10, paragraphs 0027-0031) merely discloses a touch screen interface having a screen saver function. Generally, when the touch screen has not been utilized for a certain period of time a pattern is displayed instead of the control “buttons” as shown in Figure 4. However, when an error condition

exists and the touch screen has not been used for a given period of time the screen saver displays an error message, as shown in Figure 5, instead of a pattern.

The activation of the screen saver is not accompanied by “making the image forming apparatus inactive” as recited in claim 1. Accordingly, Ohara does not disclose or suggest “enabling the use of the image forming apparatus.” There is no reason for Ohara to enable an image forming apparatus that has not been deactivated. Kanemitsu does not disclose or suggest the above discussed features as recited in claim 1, nor does the Examiner cite Kanemitsu as making such a disclosure.

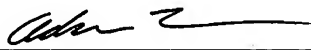
Accordingly, Kanemitsu and Ohara, alone and in combination, do not disclose or suggest all of the features recited in claim 1. Claim 1 is therefore allowable over Kanemitsu and Ohara. Claim 8 recites features similar to those discussed above with reference to claim 1. Claim 8 is therefore also allowable for at least the reasons stated above. Claims 2-7 and 9-14 depend from allowable base claims and are therefore allowable due at least to their respective dependencies.

Applicants solicit an early response allowing the claims.

In the event the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicants petition for any required relief, including extensions of time, and authorize the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 03-1952 referencing Docket No. 325772034400.

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Respectfully submitted,

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